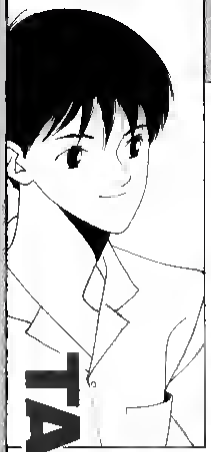
SHOKO KONAMI PRESENT

こなみ詔子

ぼくたち男の子 4



TAMIO HASE

馳 民夫

Us so far...

(KONAMI SHOUKO)

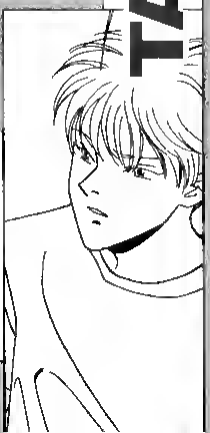
☆ Tamio and Takashi have become middle schoolers.

☆ Amidst it all, they've managed to take a trip to Hawaii, a school field trip to Kyoto, and generally live surprisingly busy lives.

☆ One day, the two meet the Shounen Jump mangaka Sasaki Ryouta. While stressing over his inability to complete his story-board, he learns that Takashi is able to draw, and quickly resolves to pluck the young bud of talent.

☆ To Tamio's despair, Takashi is lured into becoming a ghost writer for Sasaki by his desire to live in Tokyo. In his anxious state, what will Tamio do...!?

TAKASHI FUJII

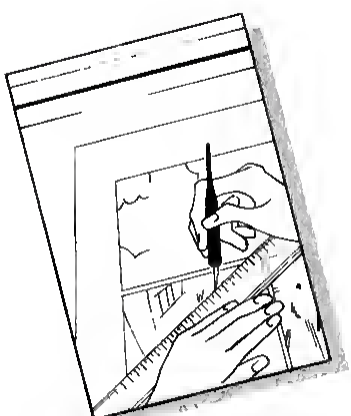


佐々木良太

RYOTA SASAKI

藤井敬士

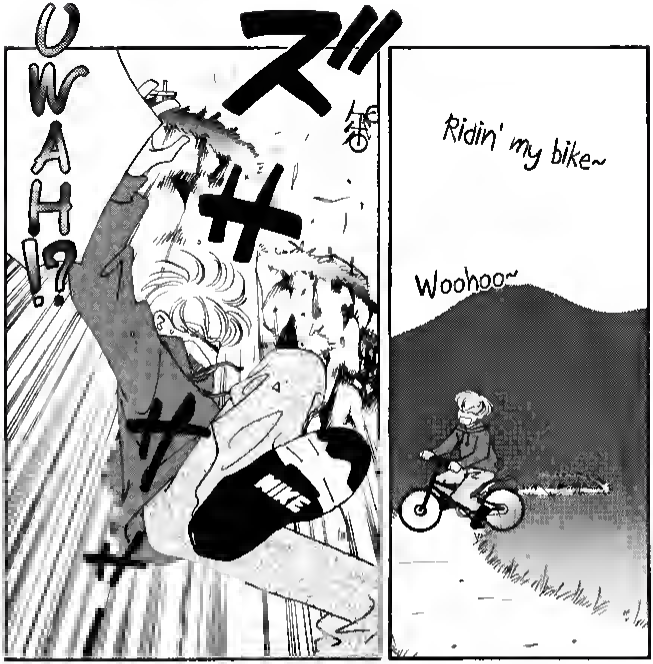
SCENE
13



WITH ME STILL STANDING IN THIS
DESOLATE ROOM
YOU TOOK YOUR LEAVE
IN SUCH DARKNESS
I CAN SCARCELY SLEEP
THOUGH THOSE STORMY DAYS OF
ENDLESS WORRY HAVE PAST

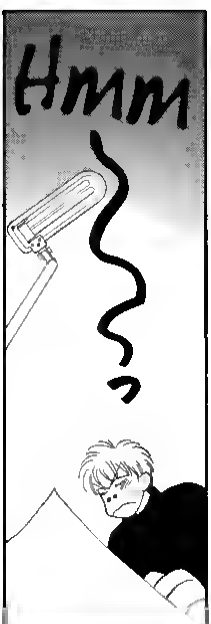
BY HIROMI GO

日本音楽著作権協会(出)許諾9401552-401号

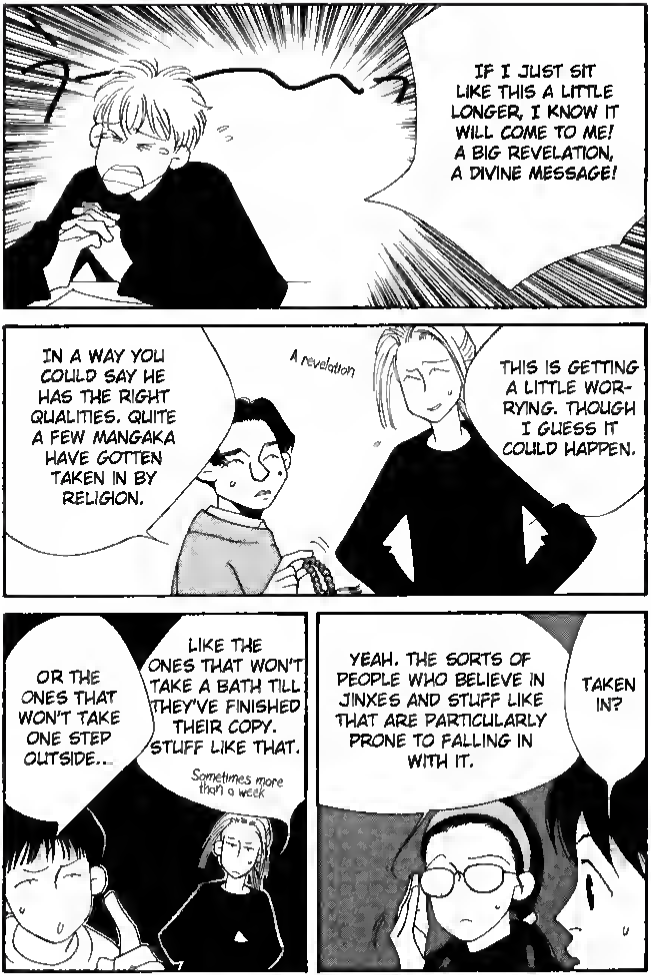

Ridin' my bike~
Woohoo~
ズ
WAH!?
NIKE

ANOTHER DREAM ABOUT FALLING OFF A CLIFF! IT'S EVERYDAY NOW!
haa
haa
...
AH!?

THOUGH I GUESS IT'S UNDER-STANDABLE.
HE'S REALLY STRESSING OUT OVER THERE.


Hmm

NO, I'M DOING IT! I KNOW I CAN!
IF YOU CAN'T MANAGE IT, YOU KNOW SOMEONE ELSE CAN DO THE STORY, RIGHT?


IF I JUST SIT LIKE THIS A LITTLE LONGER, I KNOW IT WILL COME TO ME! A BIG REVELATION, A DIVINE MESSAGE!
A revelation
IN A WAY YOU COULD SAY HE HAS THE RIGHT QUALITIES. QUITE A FEW MANGAKA HAVE GOTTEN TAKEN IN BY RELIGION.
THIS IS GETTING A LITTLE WORRYING. THOUGH I GUESS IT COULD HAPPEN.
OR THE ONES THAT WON'T TAKE ONE STEP OUTSIDE...
LIKE THE ONES THAT WON'T TAKE A BATH TILL THEY'VE FINISHED THEIR COPY. STUFF LIKE THAT.
Sometimes more than a week
YEAH. THE SORTS OF PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN JINXES AND STUFF LIKE THAT ARE PARTICULARLY PRONE TO FALLING IN WITH IT.
TAKEN IN?

NO MORE! PLEASE DON'T DO ANY OF THAT!
OR WILL SPRINKLE CAT SHIT ALL OVER THE GROUND.
OR THE ONES THAT WILL PLAY NOTHING BUT ANIME SONGS.
OR THE ONES THAT WILL PLAY CLASSICAL MUSIC THE ENTIRE TIME THEY'RE WORKING.

YEAH, I DO. I MEAN, SO WHAT IF HE LIKES TO RUN OFF SOMETIMES?
YOU THINK SO?
Doesn't affect us.

STILL,
WHILE I FIND SOME THINGS ABOUT SENSEI PRETTY STRANGE, RELATIVELY SPEAKING THIS GIG IS PRETTY GOOD.

FINISHING THE LAST OF THE COPY AT A COFFEE SHOP IN THE AIRPORT TO GET IT ON THE LAST FLIGHT OF AIRMAIL..!
Getting stared at by people is so embarrassing!
GETTING NO SLEEP FOR THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS, WITH ASSISTANT'S TRAVELING EXPENSES STAYING AT FIVE THOUSAND YEN...
Don't underestimate me!

WELL IT WON'T IF ALL YOU DO IS SIT THERE BITCHING ABOUT YOUR JOBS.
THE WORK NEVER REALLY ENDS.
B-BEING AN ASSISTANT SOUNDS PRETTY TOUGH, HUH?
ギくっ
I HAD THE DREAM ABOUT FALLING OFF A CLIFF AGAIN.
ｶﾞﾀ
ｶﾞﾀ

SO ARE YOU DONE?

I BET YOU HAVEN'T EVEN DONE ONE PAGE, HAVE YOU?
HA, A LITTLE MORE TIME.

AH, WELL, I COULD USE JUST A LITTLE MORE TIME...

HE ACTS LIKE HE DOESN'T SAY THAT ALL THE TIME.
YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO MAKE IT IF YOU KEEP SAYING THAT KIND OF THING, YOU KNOW.

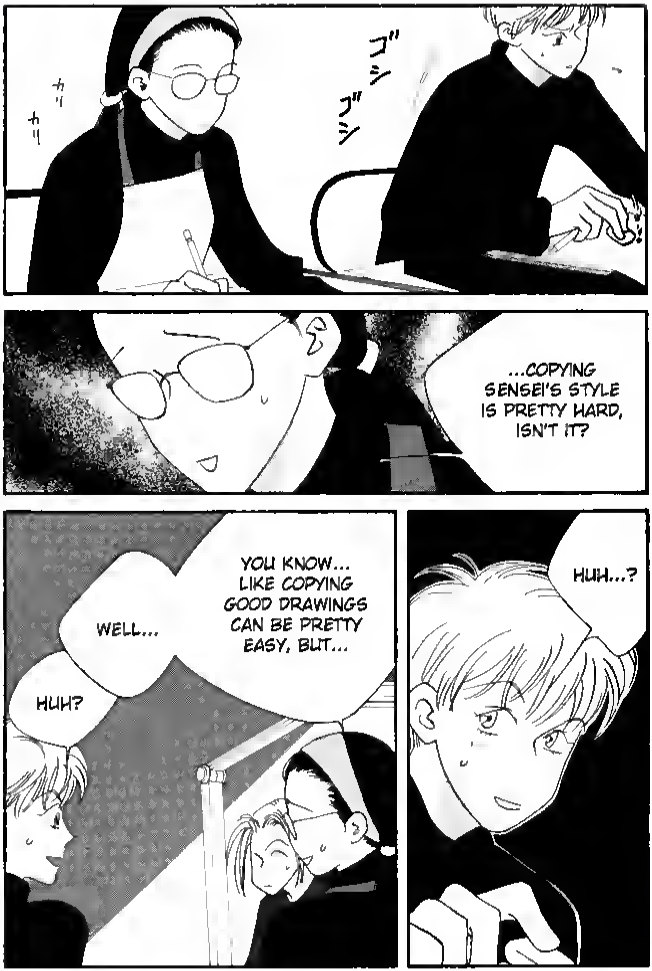
S-SENSEI! I'M DONE~!
YOU ARE!?
YES! HERE IT IS!
LET'S SEE.
THIS... THIS IS...

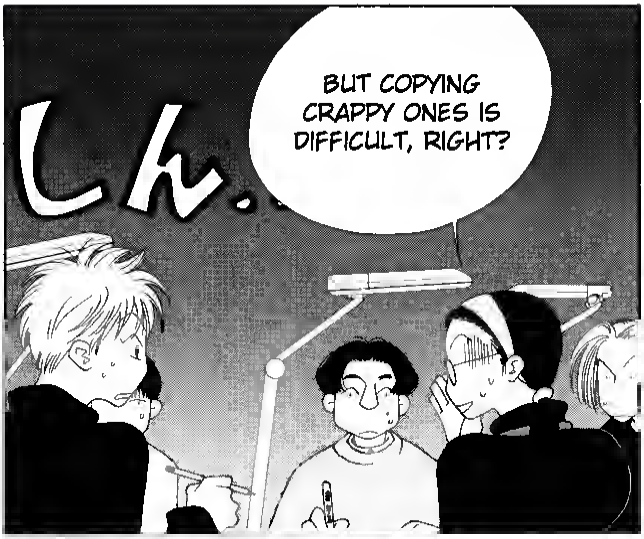
OW!
YOU WROTE AN ORIGINAL STORY!
HUH? I THOUGHT THAT'S WHY YOU WANTED ME TO WRITE.
IS THAT BAD LUCK?
WHO TOLD YOU TO WRITE A COMPLETELY NEW STORY!? DO YOU STILL NOT GET IT!?
DIDN'T...DIDN'T HE ASK YOU TO CONTINUE THE STORY OF HIS OWN MANGA?

BUT...
EH?
BUT THAT'S EASY! WAIT A SEC AN I'LL WRITE SOMETHING.
E-EASY...!?
WELL EXCUSE ME FOR WORRYING OVER SUCH A SIMPLE THING.

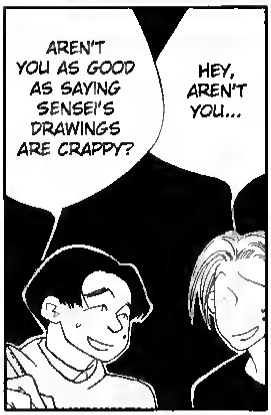
ALL DONE!
WHOA, NOW. THAT WAS WAY TOO FAST!
YOU CAN'T REALLY HAVE WRITTEN YOURSELF OUT OF THAT CORNER ALREADY!
AL-READY!?
YEAH!

THIS GUY IS TROUBLE... WELL, FIRST WE'VE GOT TO TURN IN THE COPY.
AFTER IS WHEN I'LL CRUSH HIM.
IT'S... IT'S PRETTY GOOD...


ゴシ
ゴシ
カリ
カリ
...COPYING SENSEI'S STYLE IS PRETTY HARD, ISN'T IT?
YOU KNOW... LIKE COPYING GOOD DRAWINGS CAN BE PRETTY EASY, BUT...
WELL...
HUH?
HUH...?


Uh...
BUT COPYING CRAPPY ONES IS DIFFICULT, RIGHT?

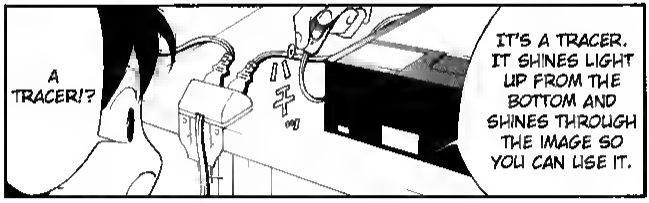
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU SHOULD BE SO DIRECT ABOUT---
YEAH, IT IS.
HUH?
THAT'S PRETTY ROUGH.
....


AREN'T YOU AS GOOD AS SAYING SENSEI'S DRAWINGS ARE CRAPPY?
HEY, AREN'T YOU...

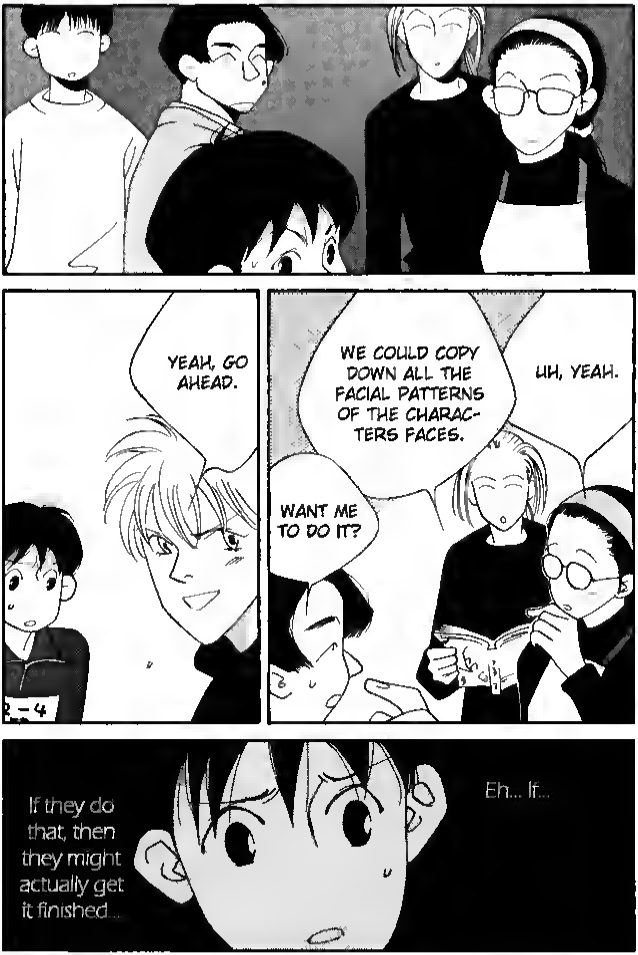
shake shake
YOU'RE ALL HORRIBLE! YOU GUYS SAY IT ALL THE TIME!

changes the subject
SAY... WHAT'S WITH THIS BOX?

...
HEY, COPYING THIS IS PRETTY EASY!

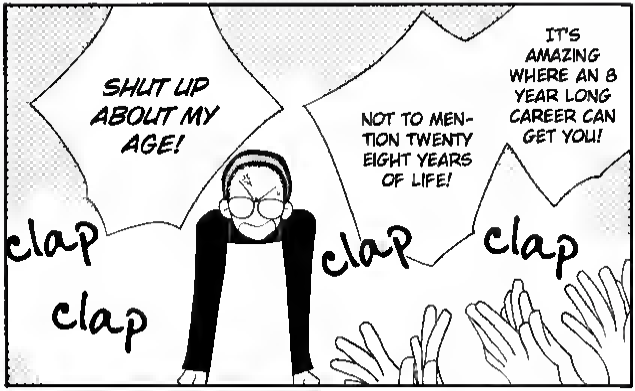

A TRACER!?
IT'S A TRACER. IT SHINES LIGHT UP FROM THE BOTTOM AND SHINES THROUGH THE IMAGE SO YOU CAN USE IT.

LOOK, YOU...
YOU SHOULDN'T BE DOING THAT KIND OF THING. I TRACED MY PENMANSHIP HOMEWORK FROM THE TEXTBOOK, AND MY TEACHER GOT REALLY MAD.
SO WE CAN USE THIS THING TO HELP IMITATE SENSEI'S STYLE.
...OH.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT METHODS YOU USE, SO LONG AS THE COPY GETS TURNED IN.


YEAH, GO AHEAD.
WE COULD COPY DOWN ALL THE FACIAL PATTERNS OF THE CHARACTERS FACES.
UH, YEAH.
WANT ME TO DO IT?
If they do that, then they might actually get it finished...
Eh... If...

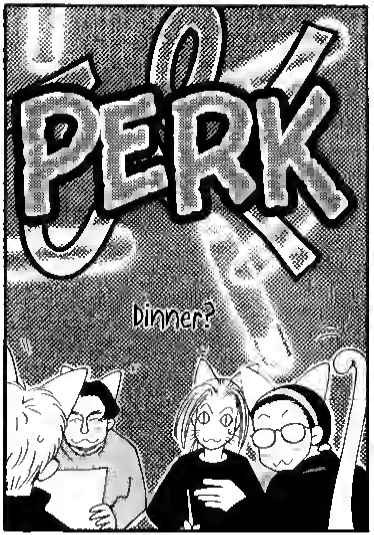
OK!
THIS ONE NEEDS THE BACKGROUND NOW.
YOU CAN USE THE WHITE TO FIX ANY MISTAKES.
Splash!
SLAP
AH!

WE USE WATER RESISTANT INK, SO THIS IS ALL WE NEED!
HOHOHO, DON'T WORRY, TAMIO-KUN.
A brush
Water
THERE WAS A BUG ON YOUR BACK, SO I...
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT...
ベチ!
JUST GET IT A LITTLE WET...
WOW!
SEE, GOOD AS NEW!

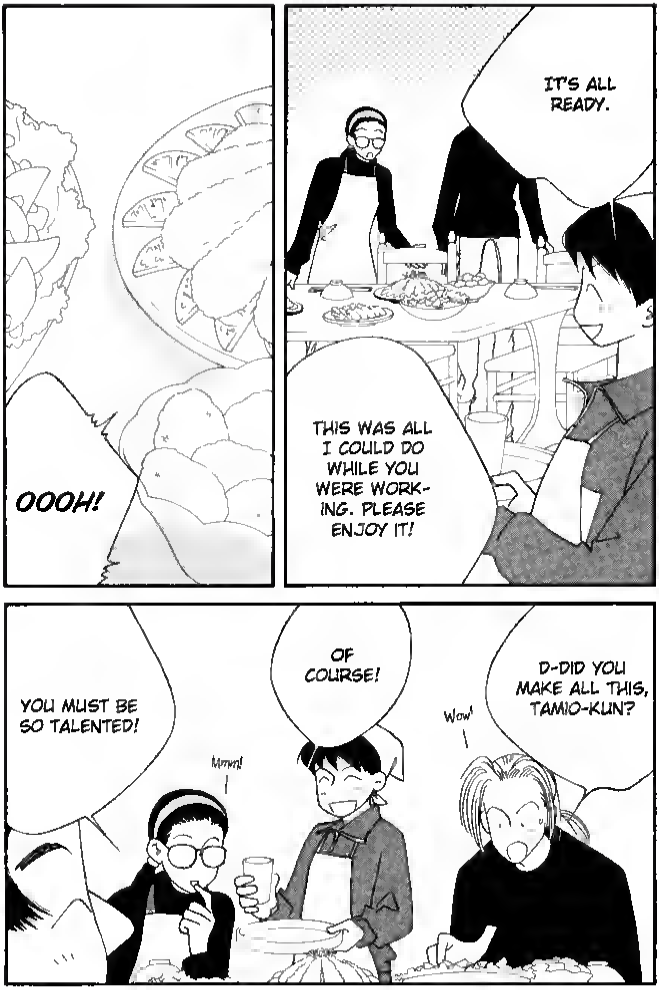

SHUT UP ABOUT MY AGE!
NOT TO MENTION TWENTY EIGHT YEARS OF LIFE!
IT'S AMAZING WHERE AN 8 YEAR LONG CAREER CAN GET YOU!
clap
clap
clap
clap

This. This is getting tough.
I'm going to have to use my head

むー
BUT LIKE SHE SAYS, USING WATERPROOF INK IS A REAL LIFESAVER.


PERK
Dinner?

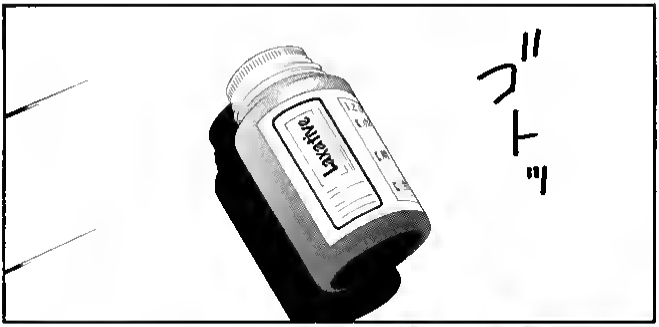
Dinner!


OOOH!
THIS WAS ALL I COULD DO WHILE YOU WERE WORK-ING. PLEASE ENJOY IT!
IT'S ALL READY.
D-DID YOU MAKE ALL THIS, TAMIO-KUN?
Wow!
OF COURSE!
Mmm!
YOU MUST BE SO TALENTED!

Mmm
Munch
gurgle gurgle gurgle
W-WAIT A MINUTE, I'M GOING TOO!
ガヤ
I'M...GOING TO HEAD TO THE BATHROOM FOR JUST A SEC...
gurgle

I'M DOING A NUMBER TWO SO I SHOULD GO! I'M GONNA EXPLODE!
STUPID, I NEED TO SHIT, TOO!
Me, too!
WHAT KIND OF REASON-ING IS THAT!?
ME FIRST! GUYS HAVE A LONG URETHRA SO YOU CAN HOLD IT LONGER!
IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE IS GETTING SICK...
ギャア
ギャア
WHAT'S WITH ALL YOU?

TAMIO!
EH? NOT A THING!
shake
shake
DID YOU... PUT ANYTHING INTO THAT FOOD EARLIER?
AH!
SO THEN WHY ARE YOU AND I THE ONLY ONES...


ゴト"
Laxative

HMMM...
...
Laxative

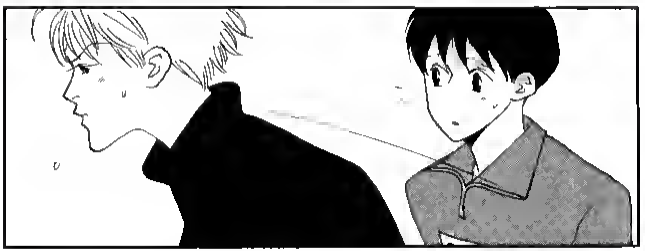
W-WHAT!?
S-SENSEI, MY HOUSE IS NEAR HERE, SO LET ME GO HOME. PLEASE.
...
WAIT?
SLAM!

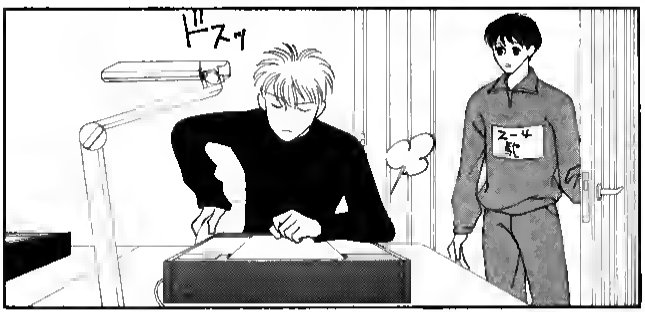
YOU GUYS, TOO!? A-ARE YOU GOING TO GO PICK SOMETHING UP!?
AH!?
HOME!
WE'RE.
GOING.
WE DON'T HAVE TRANS-PORTATION EXPENSES!

フん
HE'S TURNED INTO ASHES.
UH-OH.

SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
ナニ?
ナニ?
WHY DID YOU GIVE THEM LAXATIVES?
THAT WAS TOTALLY LOW!
...

WE MIGHT AS WELL GO TO ASHES TOO!
LOOK AT THIS! WE'LL NEVER GET THE COPY IN NOW!

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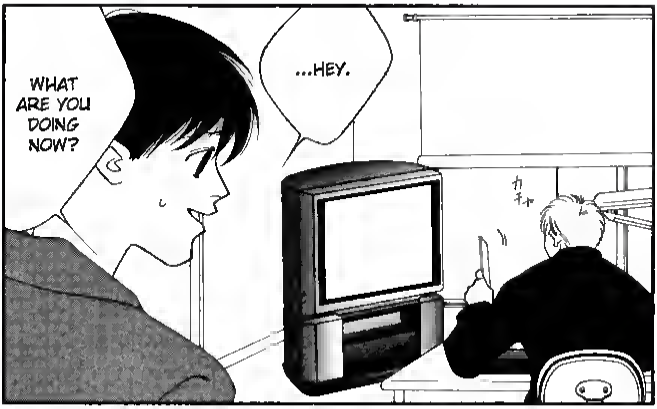
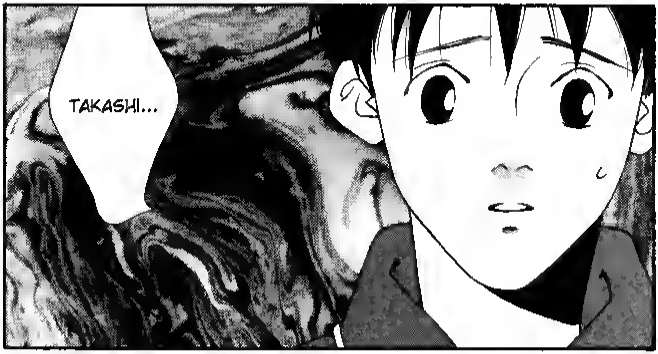
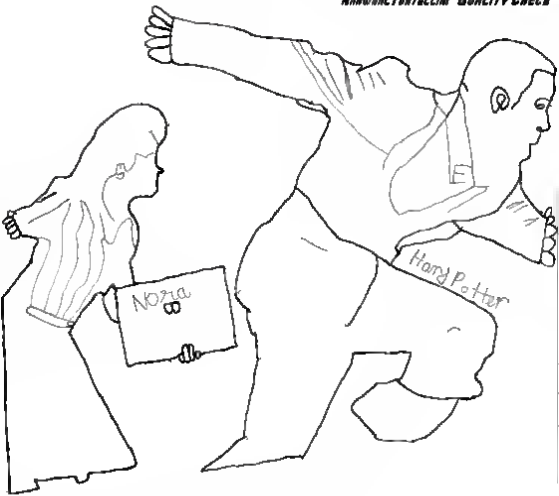




SCENE•13——END

amber loVE PJ

NarwhalTortellim Scanner
NarwhalTortellim Translator
Arianna Editor
NarwhalTortellim Quality Check



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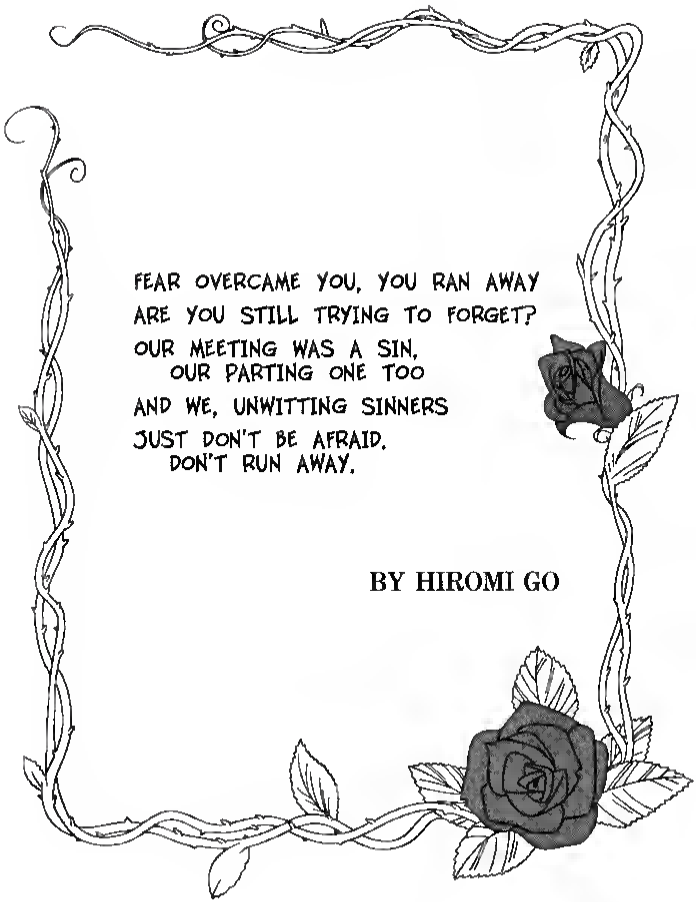
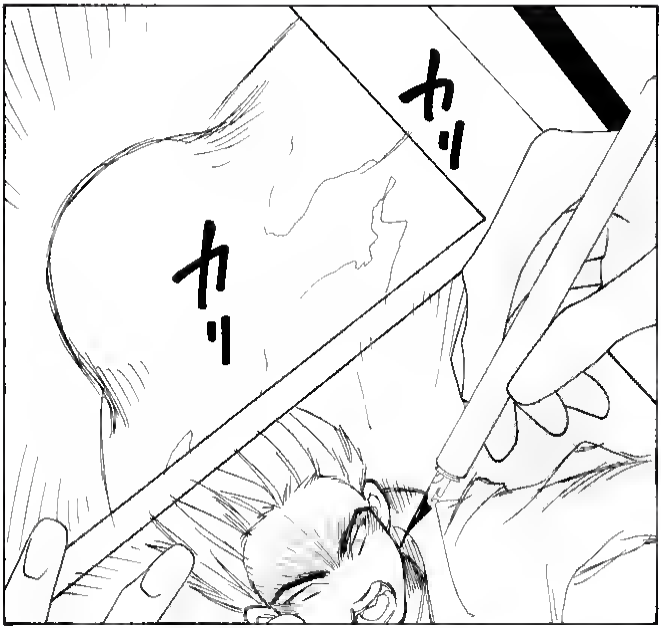
SCENE
14

カリ
カリ


FEAR OVERCAME YOU, YOU RAN AWAY
ARE YOU STILL TRYING TO FORGET?
OUR MEETING WAS A SIN,
OUR PARTING ONE TOO
AND WE, UNWITTING SINNERS
JUST DON'T BE AFRAID.
DON'T RUN AWAY.
BY HIROMI GO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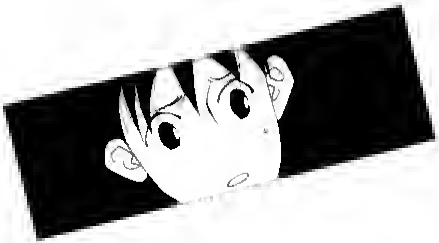
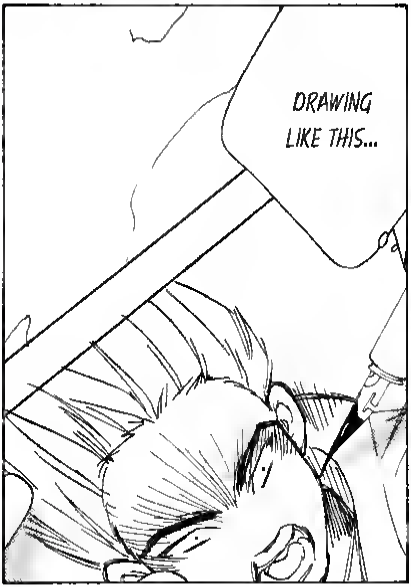
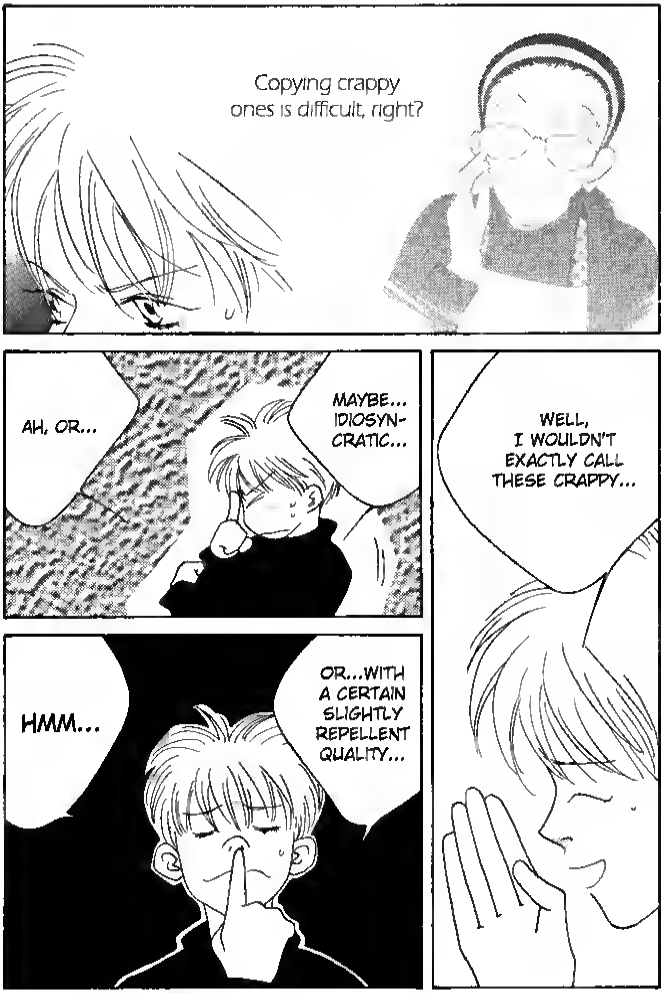
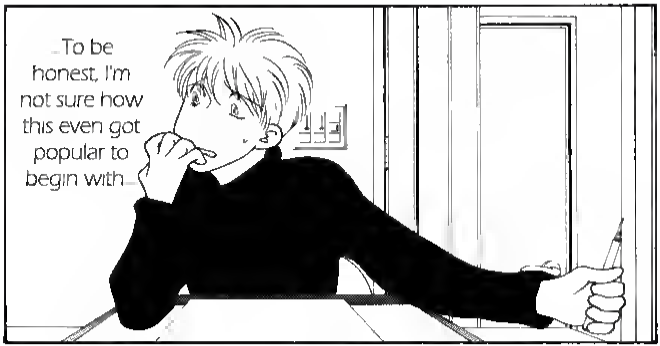


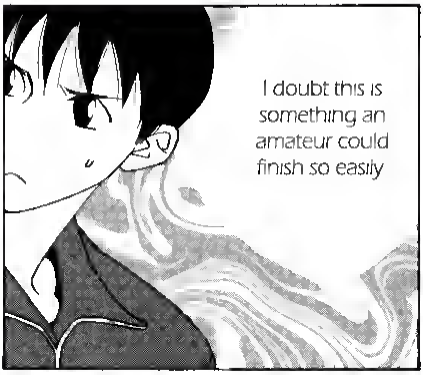
IT'S THE TIME THAT'S THE ISSUE...
DOING THIS ALONE ISN'T IMPOSSIBLE, BUT..

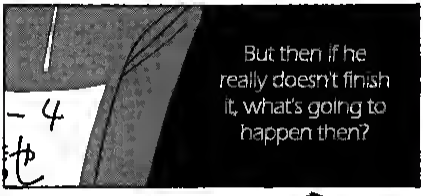

DRAWING LIKE THIS...

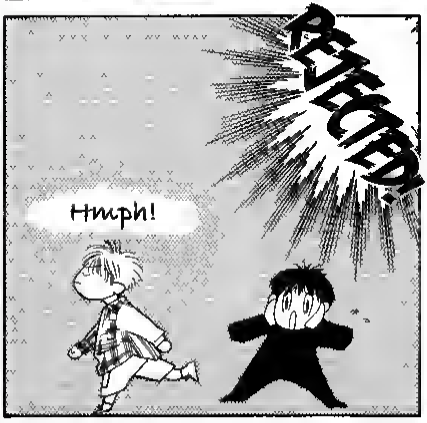
WHAT SHOULD I DO..


Copying crappy ones is difficult, right?
AH, OR...
MAYBE... IDIOSYN-CRATIC...
WELL, I WOULDN'T EXACTLY CALL THESE CRAPPY...
HMM...
OR...WITH A CERTAIN SLIGHTLY REPELLENT QUALITY...


...To be honest, I'm not sure how this even got popular to begin with...


I doubt this is something an amateur could finish so easily


But then if he really doesn't finish it, what's going to happen then?


REJECTED!
Hmph!

There's no way he can make it
Even the pros get help from other people

ALL... ALL BECAUSE OF...
と"
REJECTED FOREVER!
Hmph!
祝 TO TOKYO!
CONGRATULATIONS, TAKASHI! YOU'VE BEEN PUBLISHED!
Editor
On the other hand, if he does make it...

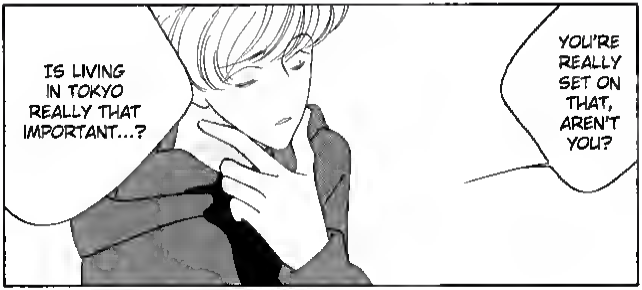
は、
THAT CAN'T HAPPEN!
WHAT AM I DOING OVER HERE?
キョロ
キョロ

ASHES?
YOU... YOU WERE BUSY TURNING INTO ASHES.
ぐっ
YOU SAID IF HE BECAME A MANGAKA HE COULD GO TO TOKYO...
OH, THAT.
TOKYO?
I... I DON'T WANT TAKASHI TO GO TO TOKYO, SENSEI.

BUT IF THEY REALLY WANT TO, A MANGAKA CAN MANGE TO STAY LIVING WHERE THEY ARE LIKE ME.
WELL, IT'S TRUE THE EDITORS ARE IN TOKYO...
...HUH?
WE'VE GOT FAX MACHINES AND EVERYTHING NOW. SO LONG AS YOU MAKE SURE TO TURN IN YOUR SCRIPT A DAY EARLY, YOU CAN LIVE ANYWHERE IN JAPAN YOU WANT.

YEAH, MAGAKA ARE ALL PRETTY FAMILIAR WITH TECHNOLOGY.
THERE'S EVEN TALK OF STARTING TO SEND COPY BY FAX, TOO.
ANYWHERE...?

DON'T START CELEBRATING YET.
...
TAKASHI
...
GETTING TO LIVE IN TOKYO IS THE WHOLE REASON I WANT TO BECOME A MANGAKA.


IS LIVING IN TOKYO REALLY THAT IMPORTANT...?
YOU'RE REALLY SET ON THAT, AREN'T YOU?

TAKASHI HATES IT IN THE COUNTRY.
2-4

I DON'T GET HOW SOMEONE COULD DISLIKE IT THAT MUCH.
HE WASN'T BORN HERE TO BEGIN WITH, SO...
BUT THE RENT IS CHEAP, AND THE TRAFFIC IS ACTUALLY TOLERABLE...
I GUESS THE NEWS GETTING HERE LATE CAN BE KIND OF IRRITATING,
AND IN THE END, WHAT'S BEST FOR ADULTS TRUMPS WHAT'S FOR KIDS. AFTER ALL,
I SUPPOSE KIDS AREN'T REALLY CONCERNED WITH STUFF LIKE THAT, BUT AN ADULT'S REALLY THANKFUL FOR THAT KIND OF THING.

CHILDHOOD IS A PRETTY SHORT PART OF YOUR LIFE IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS.

This part of my life is short.

Even when every day feels like it goes on forever

WHOA, WHEN DID IT GET SO DARK?

...HEL-
ring ring

CRAP, I SHOULD PROBABLY CALL HOME.
カシャ

...LO.
WHY YOU
Where the hell have you been!?

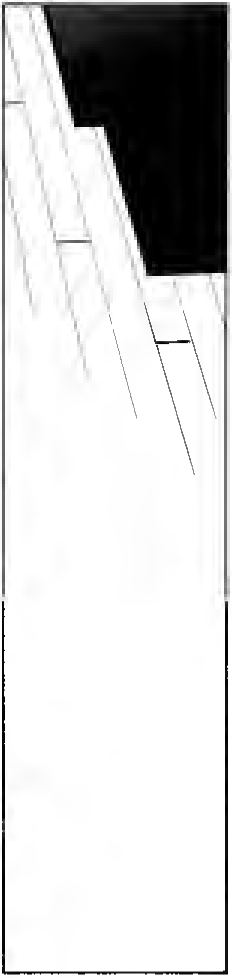
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON RIGHT NOW!
YOUR TEACHER CALLED AND SAID YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP AT SCHOOL!

THIS IS MY FUTURE I'M DEALING WITH HERE.
H-HEY, GIVE ME SOME CREDIT, MOM... I'M NOT JUST PLAYING HOOKEY.

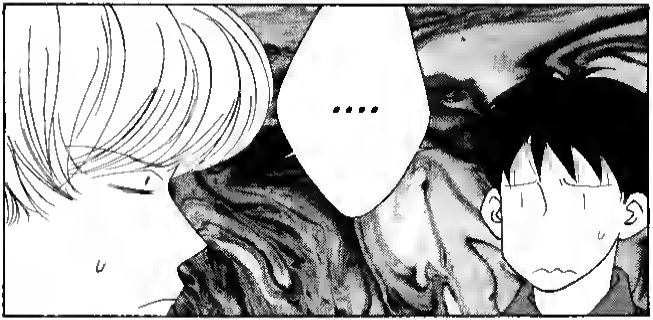
I... I'VE BEEN THINKING OF BECOMING A... A MANGAKA.
cough

What's this kid on about?
YOUR FUTURE?
WHAT ABOUT HIS FUTURE?

...SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YOU THINK HE'LL BE ABLE TO GET THE COPY IN?



...W-WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SAY IT'S FINE, BUT...


....

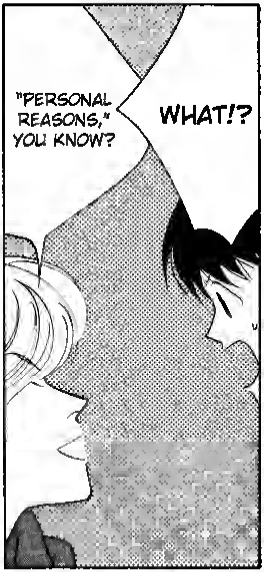
OUR SUMMER HOMEWORK WAS SURPRISINGLY SHORT AND YOU COULD EASILY FINISH IT IN THE FIRST MONTH,
BUT TAKASHI ALWAYS PUT IT OFF, AND THEN FRANTICALLY TRIED TO FINISH IT THE LAST DAY AND COULDN'T REALLY MANAGE IT...
SO...

I-I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MANGA, BUT...
WELL...

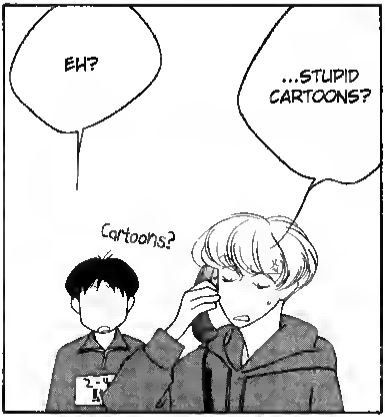
A-ARE THEY ALRIGHT?
MY PARENTS ARE IN THE HOSPITAL!
EH?
YOU'D BETTER GO AND SEE THEM RIGHT?
YOU MISUN-DERSTAND.

I'LL SAY THEY'RE IN THE HOSPITAL.
IT'S STANDARD PROCEDURE.

..I KNEW IT! WHEN YOU GUYS TAKE BREAKS AND SAY IT'S CAUSE YOU'RE SICK OR WHATEVER, IT'S REALLY SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
Due to Suzuki-sensei's serious illness, Kimura-sensei's surgical skills will be taking a break from this point on.


WHAT!?
"PERSONAL REASONS," YOU KNOW?

...
HUH?
SOMETIMES PEOPLE REALLY ARE SICK.
SO LONG AS IT'S NOT BAD ENOUGH TO BE HOSPITALIZED, PEOPLE STILL KEEP WORKING EVEN WHEN THEY'RE SICK.
USUALLY.
....
I still drew in bed when I hurt my hip
I MEAN, EVEN IF YOU'VE GOT A FEVER OR DIARRHEA OR ARE PUKING UP BLOOD, SO LONG AS YOUR HAND MOVES YOU CAN STILL DRAW.
THOUGH IF YOU'RE BEDRIDDEN IT CAN BE TOUGHER.


EH?
...STUPID CARTOONS?
Cartoons?

Like hell you will! You think you're going to spend your life making some stupid cartoons!?

STUPID CAR-TOONS!?

Well, excuse me for making my stupid cartoons! Excuse me for managing to put food on the table and a roof over my head!
WE'RE GOING TO WORK!
HUH?
click!
TAMIO, YOU'RE GOING TO HELP!
SENSEI, HE...
What on earth was that?

I GET THE THIRD DEGREE WHEN I TRY TO APPLY FOR A CREDIT CARD.
THAT'S RIGHT, I DRAW CARTOONS.
IF I TRY TO FIND A PLACE TO LIVE THE REAL ESTATE AGENTS TURN ME AWAY AT THE DOOR!
BASICALLY, I'VE GOT ZERO SELF CONFIDENCE!
HE'S ACTUALLY WILLING TO WORK NOW?

AND AFTER THAT I'VE STILL GOT TO PAY HIGHER TAXES THAN ALL THE COMMON FOLK
THIS IS A FUCKING JOKE!

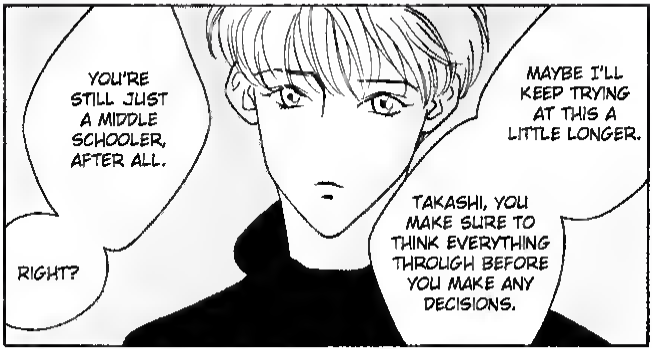
DAMNIT, I'LL SHOW YOU THE POWER OF THE HIGHER TAX BRACKET!
ガガガガ

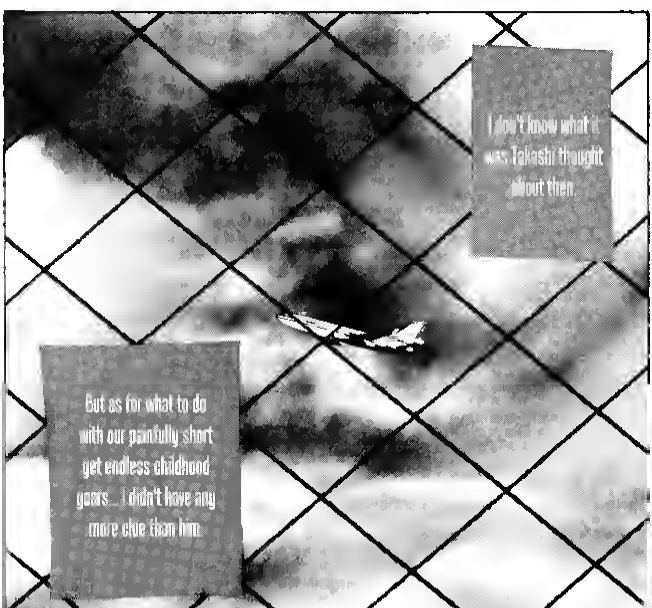
After that...
ブスッ

Hijiyuta-sensei drew so fast that his hands became a blur. He finished his story.

THE REST IS UP TO YOU, MR. AIRPLANE.
THERE GOES THE AIRMAIL.
You shouldn't jinx it
Just don't crash before you deliver my story.
2-4
FROM WHEN I QUIT COLLEGE THE SCHOOL I WAS AT WASN'T ANYTHING SPECIAL AND IT WOULDN'T REALLY HELP ME FIND A JOB.
AND SINCE I WAS A SECOND SON AND MY PARENTS DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANY SPECIAL HOPES FOR ME...
I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING.

I FIGURED I MAY AS WELL GIVE THIS MY ALL SINCE THEY SEEMED TO WANT ME.
MANGAKA ARE SORT OF DISPOSABLE CREATURES TO SOME PEOPLE...
MAYBE, IF WE RECYCLE OURSELVES INSTEAD, WE MIGHT JUST GET SOMETHING WORTHWHILE.


YOU'RE STILL JUST A MIDDLE SCHOOLER, AFTER ALL.
RIGHT?
TAKASHI, YOU MAKE SURE TO THINK EVERYTHING THROUGH BEFORE YOU MAKE ANY DECISIONS.
MAYBE I'LL KEEP TRYING AT THIS A LITTLE LONGER.


I don't know what it was Takashi thought about then.
But as for what to do with our painfully short yet endless childhood years... I didn't have any more clue than him.

SCENE·14——END

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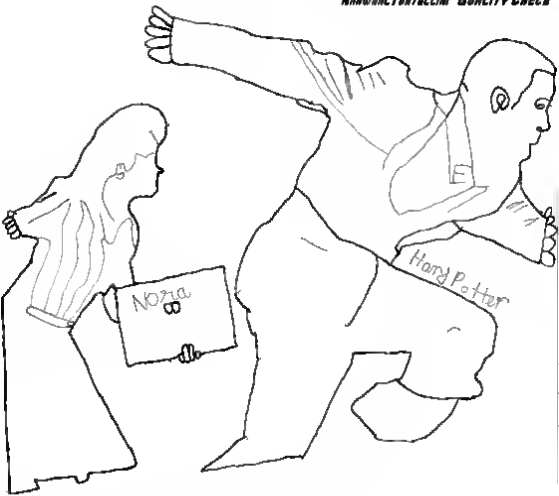
NarwhalTortellim Translator
Arianna Editor
NarwhalTortellim Quality Check



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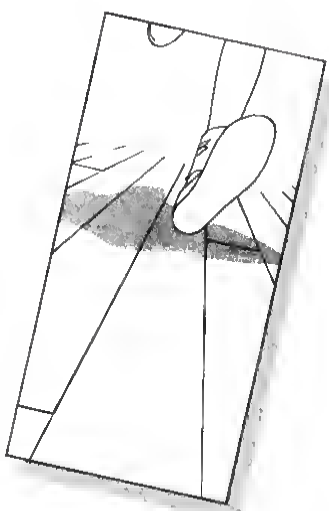
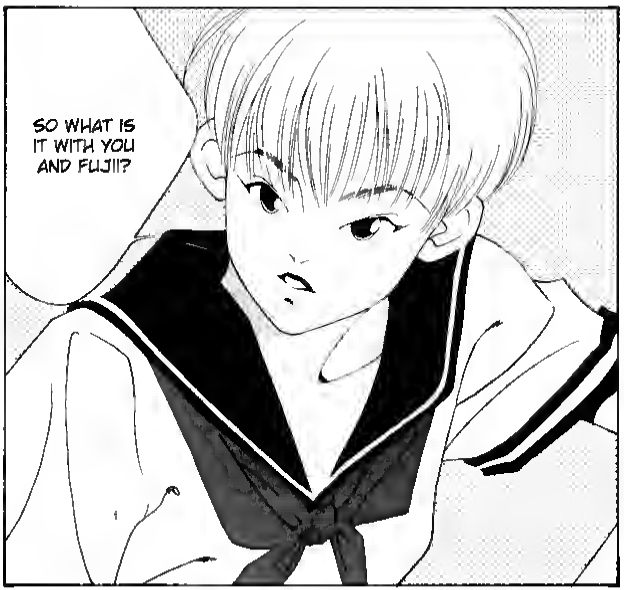
SCENE
15

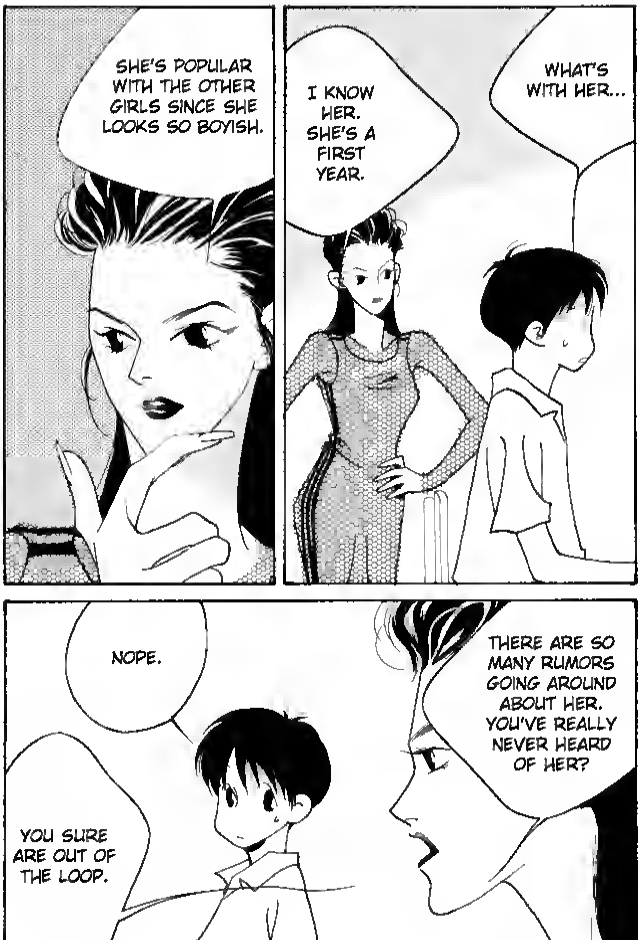



SO WHAT IS IT WITH YOU AND FUJII?

I'M ASAI.
NOW HOW ABOUT AN ANSWER?
WHAT IS IT WITH...
HUH... WHAT'S THIS ABOUT ALL THE SUDDEN? AND WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
I DON'T EVEN GET WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO ASK.

I'M ASKING WHETHER OR NOT THE TWO OF YOU ARE JUST FRIENDS.
WELL... MORE LIKE BEST FRIENDS, REALLY...
ギ〃

HM.
THEN IT'S NO PROB-LEM.


SHE'S POPULAR WITH THE OTHER GIRLS SINCE SHE LOOKS SO BOYISH.
I KNOW HER. SHE'S A FIRST YEAR.
WHAT'S WITH HER...
NOPE.
THERE ARE SO MANY RUMORS GOING AROUND ABOUT HER. YOU'VE REALLY NEVER HEARD OF HER?
YOU SURE ARE OUT OF THE LOOP.

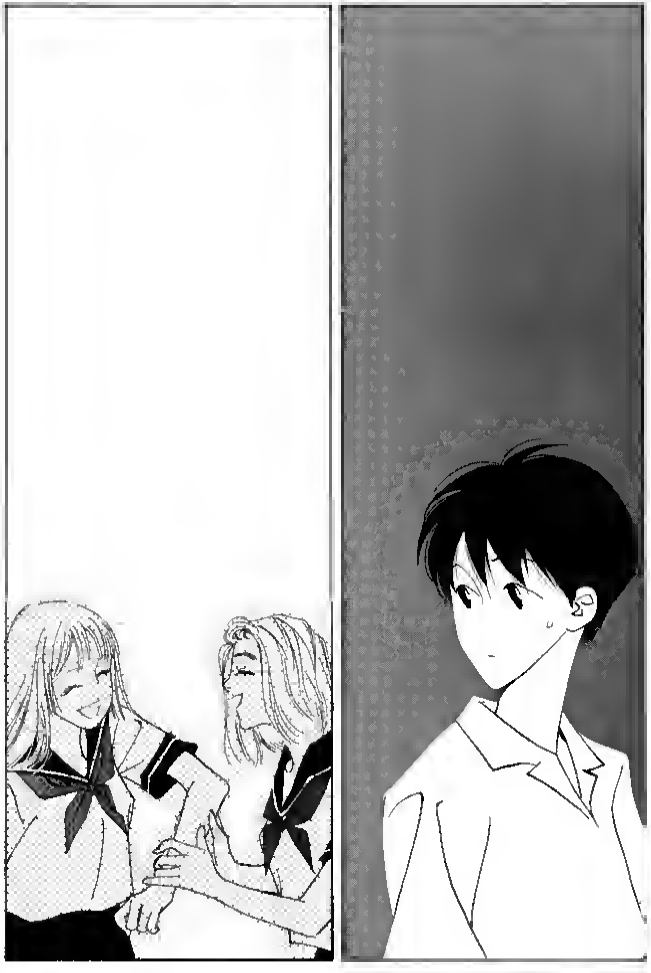
DOES THAT MEAN YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE ONE ABOUT THE TWO OF YOU BEING GAY, EITHER?

YOU AND TAKASHI. EVERYONE KNOWS IT.
Who else would it be?
T-THAT'S A LIE! ...WAIT, WHO ELSE?
WHAT!?
..YOU REALLY DIDN'T KNOW?

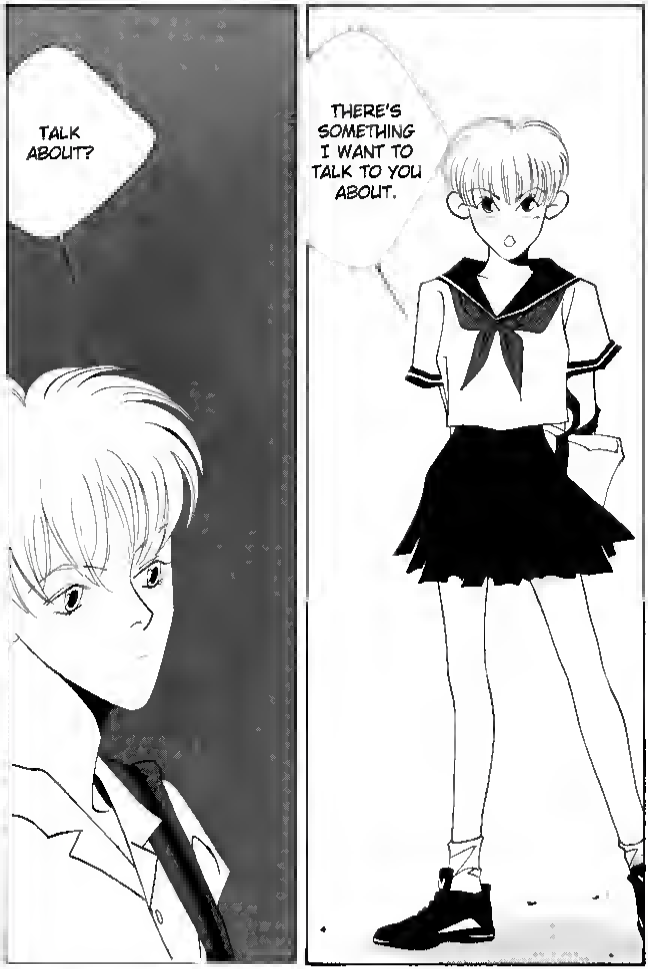
NOT JUST ME, BUT THEN TAKASHI...!?
——!?
ME AND TAKASHI...!?

Hold on...
Could I be gay...?
?

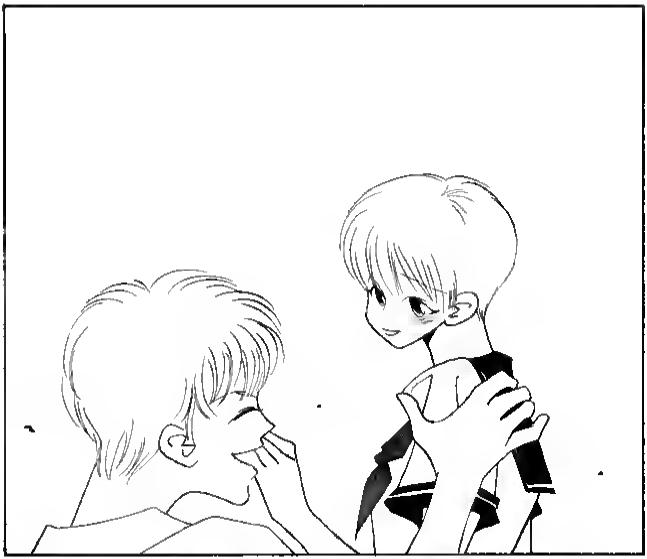
I hadn't really thought about it up till now, but...
But maybe the reason I like Takashi so much is because I'm gay?

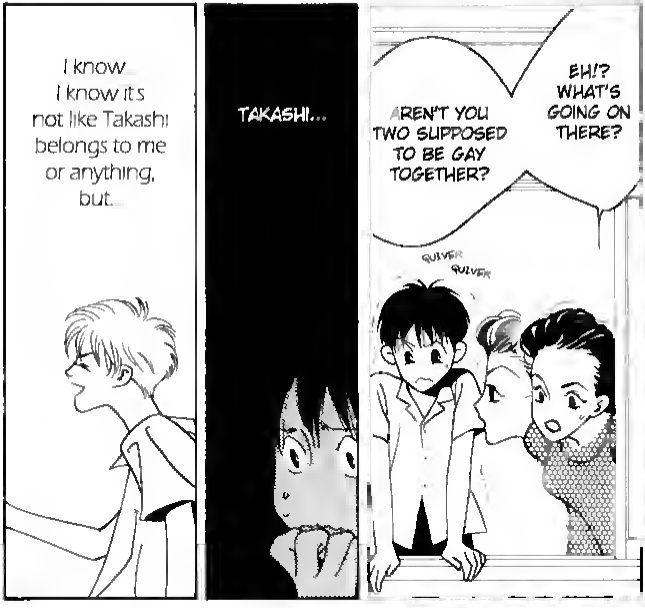


All I know is that if I don't have Takashi, I...
...I don't know. That doesn't really seem right...
Then I...


TALK ABOUT?
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

EH? TAKASHI ALREADY LEFT?
YEAH, AGES AGO.
AWW~ I ASKED HIM TO WAIT FOR ME WHILE I FINISHED CLEANING...
HE SEEMS TO BE OUT THERE NOW, THOUGH.
TAKA—!?

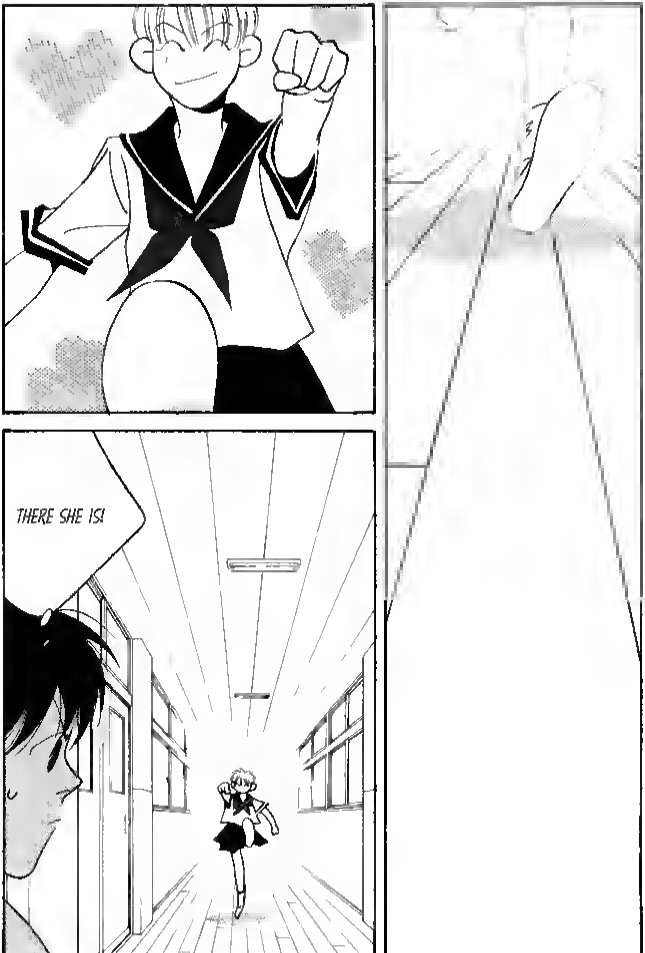



I know.
I know it's not like Takashi belongs to me or anything, but...
TAKASHI...
AREN'T YOU TWO SUPPOSED TO BE GAY TOGETHER?
EH!? WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?
QUIVER
QUIVER

HER--!

Then it's no problem
So what is it with you and Fujii?
I'm asking whether or not the two of you are just friends
SO... SO THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON..

SHE'S TRYING TO STEAL TAKASHI FROM ME!
He doesn't belong to you!!
Grrr
?

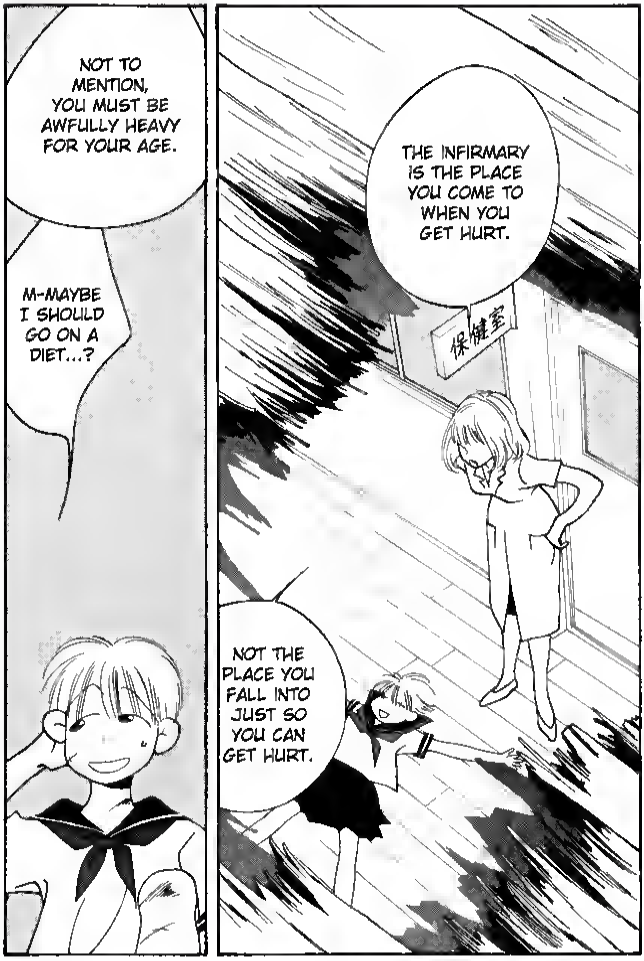

THERE SHE IS!

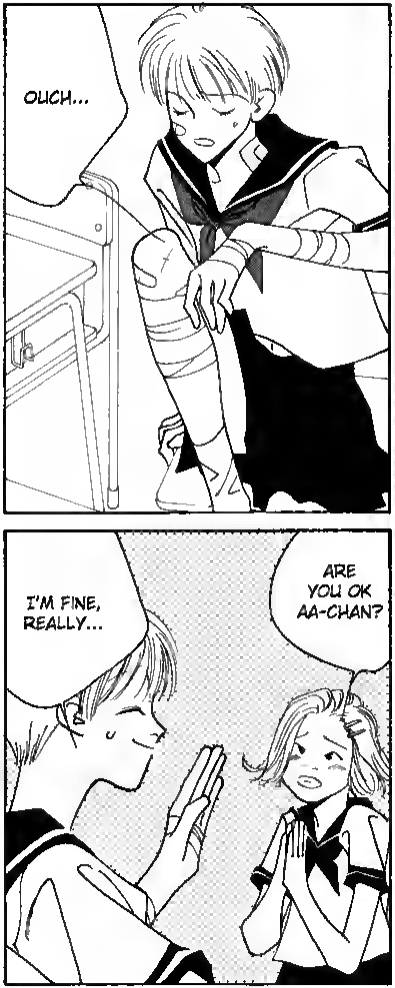
キーンコーンカーンコーン
SAY...
click
Ahem

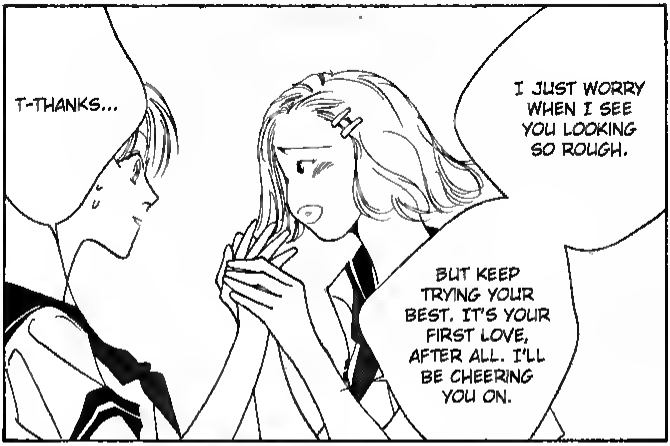
EH!?
turn
HERE COMES THE TEACH-ER!
...
Yuri!
ダーッ

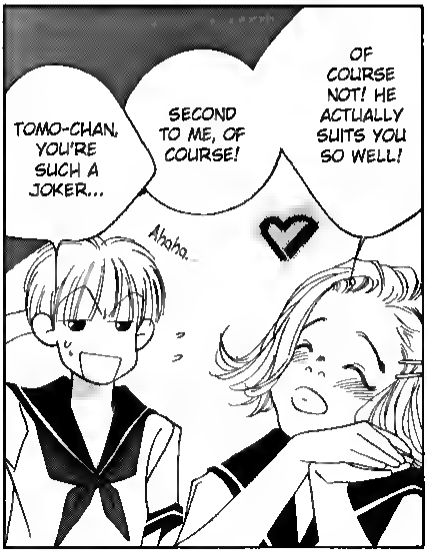
scrape
LET'S GO LOOK, TAMIO!
HEY, HOLD ON A SEC--
EH? OH, I'M JUST THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CARPENTER.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
WHAT!? TOKYO!?
T-TAKASHI! THERE'S A POSTER ON THE BULLETIN BOARD THAT SAID SOMETHING ABOUT TOURS TO TOKYO!
OH, HEY...!

clatter
thud
clatter
CRASH
ASAI-SAN.
MAYBE JUST YOUR IMAGINA-TION?
...WHAT WAS THAT? SOMETHING'S MAKING A LOT OF NOISE.


NOT TO MENTION, YOU MUST BE AWFULLY HEAVY FOR YOUR AGE.
M-MAYBE I SHOULD GO ON A DIET...?
THE INFIRMARY IS THE PLACE YOU COME TO WHEN YOU GET HURT.
保健室
NOT THE PLACE YOU FALL INTO JUST SO YOU CAN GET HURT.


OUCH...
I'M FINE, REALLY...
ARE YOU OK AA-CHAN?


T-THANKS...
I JUST WORRY WHEN I SEE YOU LOOKING SO ROUGH.
BUT KEEP TRYING YOUR BEST. IT'S YOUR FIRST LOVE, AFTER ALL. I'LL BE CHEERING YOU ON.


TOMO-CHAN, YOU'RE SUCH A JOKER...
SECOND TO ME, OF COURSE!
OF COURSE NOT! HE ACTUALLY SUITS YOU SO WELL!
Ahaha...

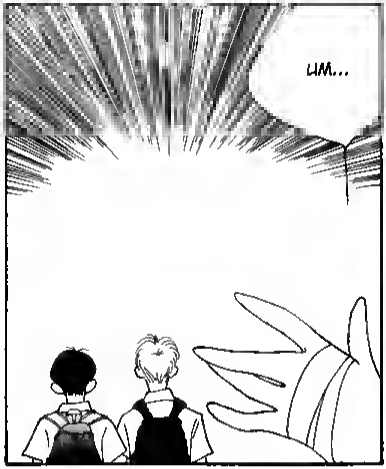
IS IT A PROB-LEM?
BUT TO THINK YOU'D GO FOR A BOY LIKE THAT...

I'M SERIOUS, YOU KNOW.
IF ANY MAN EVER DARES TO MAKE YOU UNHAPPY...
IF HE DARES...?
GULP

...TICKLING HIS UVULA?
WELL...
MAYBE I'D SHOVE MY FIST UP HIS ASS SO FAR MY FINGERS WILL BE TICKLING HIS UVULA. ♥
Teehee ♥
Come to the bathroom with me!
JUST HOW SERIOUS IS SHE..?

FUHUHU. SHE'LL GIVE UP FOR SURE AT THIS RATE.

Grin
Grin


UM...

D-DO YOU THINK MAYBE... WE COULD...
...GO HOME TOGETHER?
H-HEY... WHAT'S WITH ALL THOSE BANDAGES?
GAH! SHE'S BACK!
A-AH, IT'S NOTHING. I JUST MISSED MY FOOTING A BIT IN THE HALLWAY.
Ahaha.

SCENE•15——END

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NarwhalTortellim Translator
Arianna Editor
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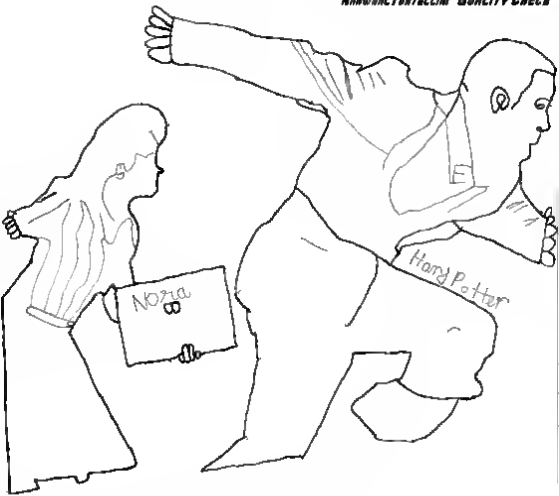

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SCENE 16

YOU ARE GIRLS
WE ARE BOYS

COME OUT AND PLAY, COME ON!
TOWARD A WORLD OF OUR OWN
WE'RE RUNNING ALONG.

BY HIROMI GO

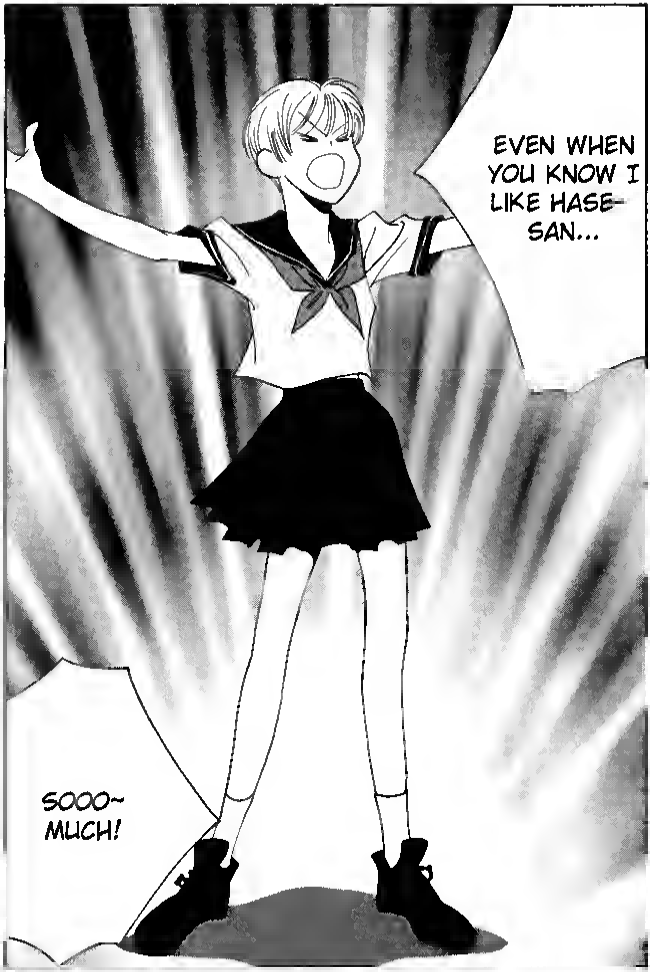
T-TAKASHI...!

YOU AND ME CAN WALK HOME ALONE.

gloop~
TAKA...

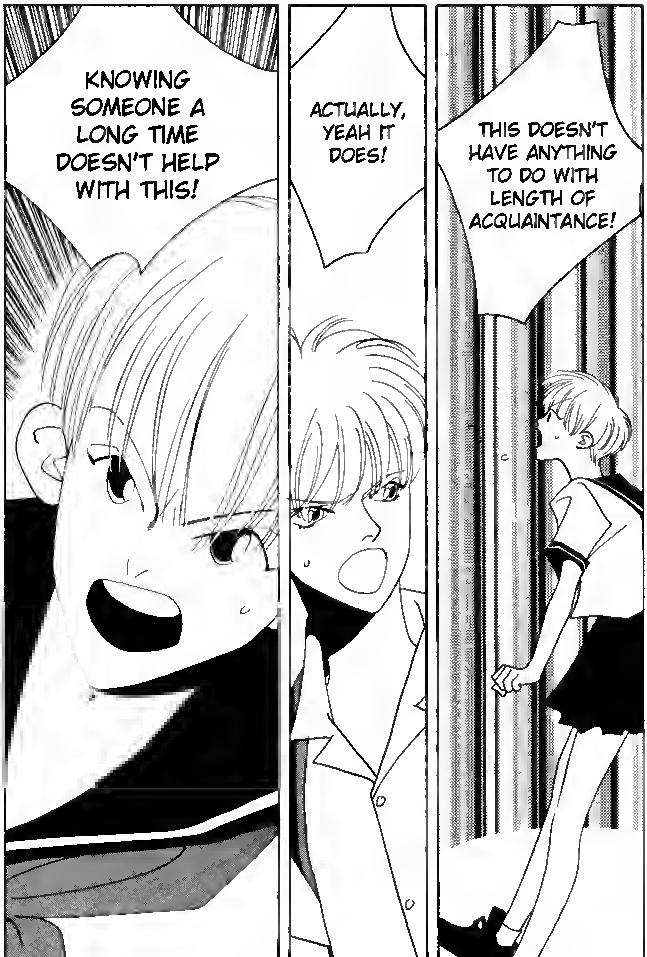
GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
WHY THE HECK SHOULD I HAVE TO COME HOME WITH YOU?

YOU'RE SAYING YOU FEEL SORRY FOR ME!?
I WAS TRYING TO COVER FOR YOU SINCE WATCHING YOU MADE ME FEEL BAD!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOVE!


EVEN WHEN YOU KNOW I LIKE HASE-SAN...
SOOO~ MUCH!

GEEZ, QUIET DOWN. YOU ALREADY USED A WHOLE PAGE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO YELL.
BUT WHY? WHY'D YOU HAVE TO DO IT?
I CAME OUT HERE SO I COULD GO HOME WITH HIM!
TAMIO'S STILL JUST A KID!

YOU JUST DON'T KNOW HIM WELL ENOUGH.
HE'S NOT INTO THAT KIND OF THING YET.
I'M JUST SAYING I VE KNOWN HIM A LOT LONGER THAN YOU.
SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU KNOW EVERY-THING ABOUT HIM THERE IS TO KNOW?


KNOWING SOMEONE A LONG TIME DOESN'T HELP WITH THIS!
ACTUALLY, YEAH IT DOES!
THIS DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH LENGTH OF ACQUAINTANCE!

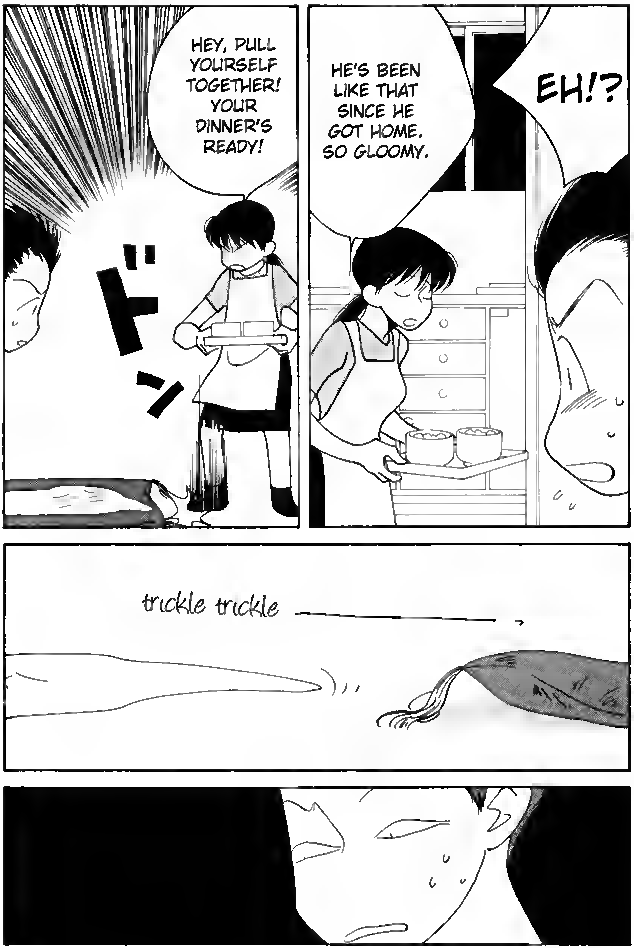
SO WHAT, YOU THINK ALL THE TIME TAMIO AND I HAVE SPENT TOGETHER DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING!?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I SAID!
I'M SAYING WE'RE NOT IN THE SAME POSITION HERE!

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT HIS FRIEND.
I WANT TO BE HIS GIRLFRIEND.

NOTHING... BUT A FRIEND.

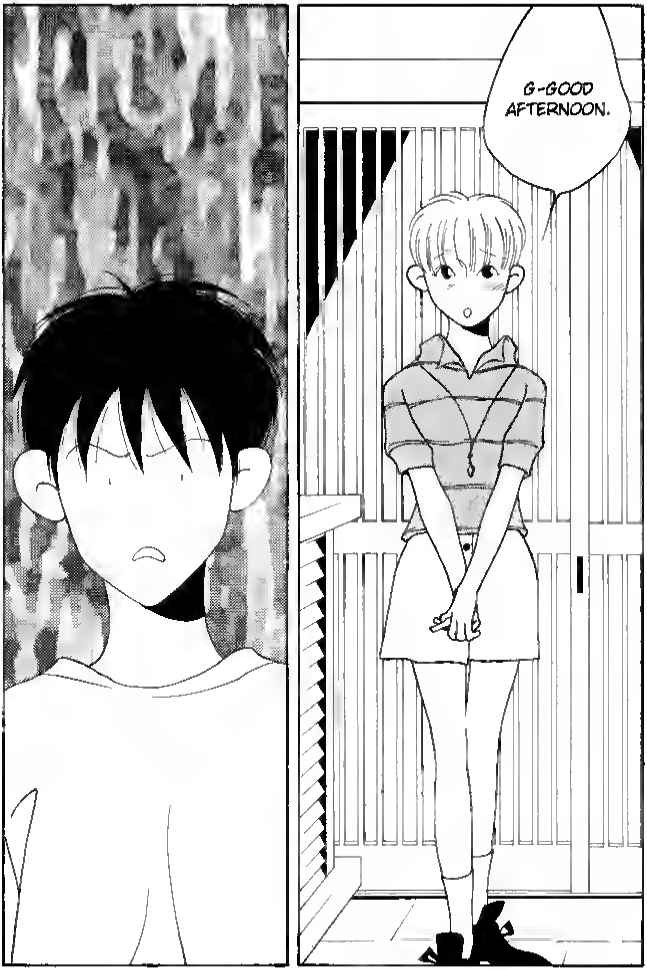
I'M HOME MY DARLING! <3
JUST HURRY UP AND TAKE A SHOWER.

splat
Aaaah
AAH, HOW COLD! HAD A STRESSFUL DAY? THAT TIME OF THE MONTH?
THAT'S TAMIO.
HEY, THIS THING IS WET.
HUH?


HEY, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER! YOUR DINNER'S READY!
ドン
HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT SINCE HE GOT HOME. SO GLOOMY.
EH!?
trickle trickle

AH.
...Y-YOU NOT GOING TO EAT, TAMIO?
HM?
HEY, MOM, LOOK AT THAT. HE'S CHANGING COLOR!

WHO'D BE COMING OVER NOW?
DING DONG
COM-ING!
YES?
...HE'S GOING BLUE.

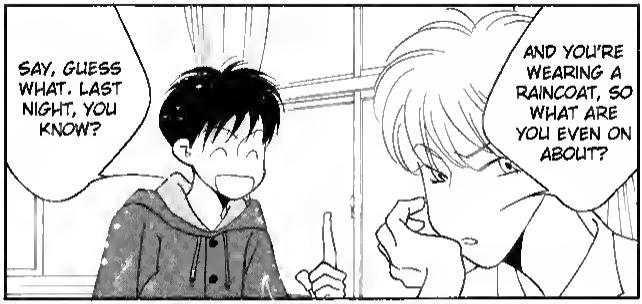

G-GOOD AFTERNOON.

Y-YOU SEEM KIND OF UPSET...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I DON'T——
BUT WHY? DO YOU NOT LIKE ME?
OF COURSE I AM!

BECAUSE...!
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME SOMETHING LIKE THAT, ANYWAY?
WHY...?
WHY?
...BECAUSE I WANT TO KNOW.

I...
I LIKE
YOU.
WELL,
BECAUSE
I...

GOOD MOOO~ RNING!
HEY.
THE WEATHER TODAY IS GREAT, HUH?
IT'S SO REFRESHING!
IT'S RAINING.


SAY, GUESS WHAT. LAST NIGHT, YOU KNOW?
AND YOU'RE WEARING A RAINCOAT, SO WHAT ARE YOU EVEN ON ABOUT?

THAT GIRL, SHE...
AND YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT SHE CAME FOR

OH YEAH?

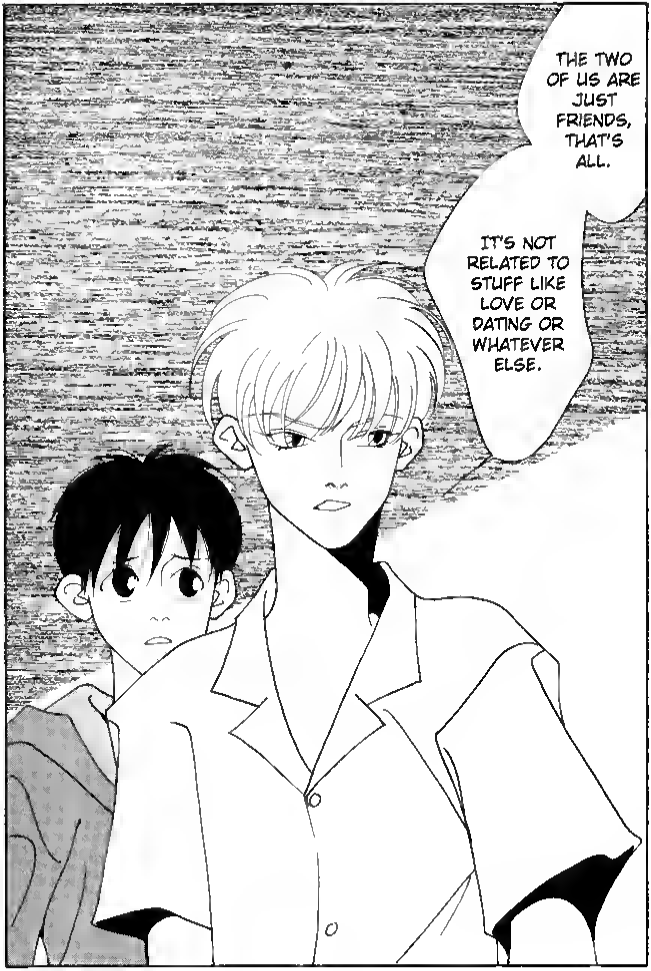
THAT ASAI GIRL CAME TO MY HOUSE!

I KNOW, OK? SHE LIKES YOU, RIGHT?
YOU... YOU KNEW?

YEAH. SHE CAME TO ME TO ASK IF I'D HELP HER OUT WHEN SHE ASKED TO COME HOME WITH US.
OH... OK.
BUT...
I'M NOT HELPING OUT WITH ANYTHING.

JUST DO WHATEVER THE HECK YOU WANT!
IT DOESN'T CONCERN ME, ANYWAY.

DOESN'T...
...CONCERN HIM?


THE TWO OF US ARE JUST FRIENDS, THAT'S ALL.
IT'S NOT RELATED TO STUFF LIKE LOVE OR DATING OR WHATEVER ELSE.

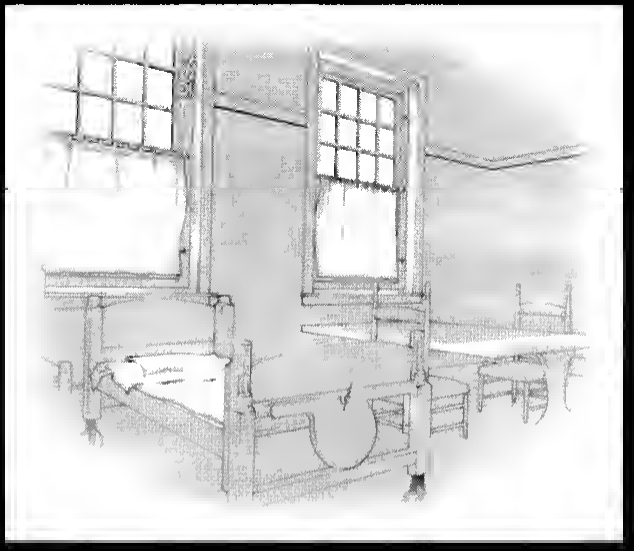
TAMIO! SOME FIRST YEAR GIRL IS ASKING FOR YOU!
SO YOU CAN JUST GO AND DEAL WITH ALL THAT YOURSELF.
THAT'S GOT TO BE ASAI, RIGHT? SO GO.

A... FRIEND...?
I'M A FRIEND OF AA-CHAN.

haa
haa
GUESS THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
YOU SHOULD KNOW NOW THAT AN IMMATURE PUNK LIKE YOU HAS NO BUSINESS DUMPING AA-CHAN.
NEXT TIME YOU SCREW WITH HER, YOU'RE GOING DOWN.

Does having an adult always make friendship so much harder?
After we graduated middle school, it started to feel as if we weren't really kids anymore

SCENE•16——END



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Ideal Bachelorhood

In spring, you finally become a college student.
And with that comes the bitter-sweet adventure of living on one's own.
...HMP.
And the dangers that come along with it...

LES HALLES TABLEWARE
AND A SET OF SHAKER TABLE AND CHAIRS.
A FRENCH SOFA BOUGHT AT THE FLEA MARKET.
EVERY-THING I HOPED FOR!
IT'S PER-FECT!
MY OWN
ROOM OF

Hanten = A short winter jacket worn especially by workers in the 18th century since the sleeves do not get in the way of the hands

OH.
EH? YOU DON'T HAVE A KOTATSU?
WHY WOULD I?
I'LL GO MAKE SOME TEA.
I GOT YOU SOME SWEETS FOR YOUR HOUSE-WARMING GIFT.
ズーン
WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME?
OH, AL-RIGHT.
HOW THOUGHT-FUL.
Temple bell shaped manju!

Seiza - The traditional formal way of sitting in Japan. While in the past seiza was used for everyday sitting, today it is only used for certain more uncommon circumstances

Kokeshi: Traditional armless legless huge headed Japanese dolls hand-carved out of wood. The Mii avatars on the Wii are actually styled after kokeshi.

AND A COASTER FOR A VASE!
IT'S A LACE TABLE-CLOTH,
a matching pair!
AND THIS ONE'S FROM MOM.
.....
.....
.....
T-THERE'S MORE...?
AND THEN FROM YOUR SISTER...
There are things an ideal room cannot do without.
As any good friend will show you.

理想一人暮らし——END

THE MANGA TOOLBOX

A double-sided pen.

These used to be called ryoubouzuri.

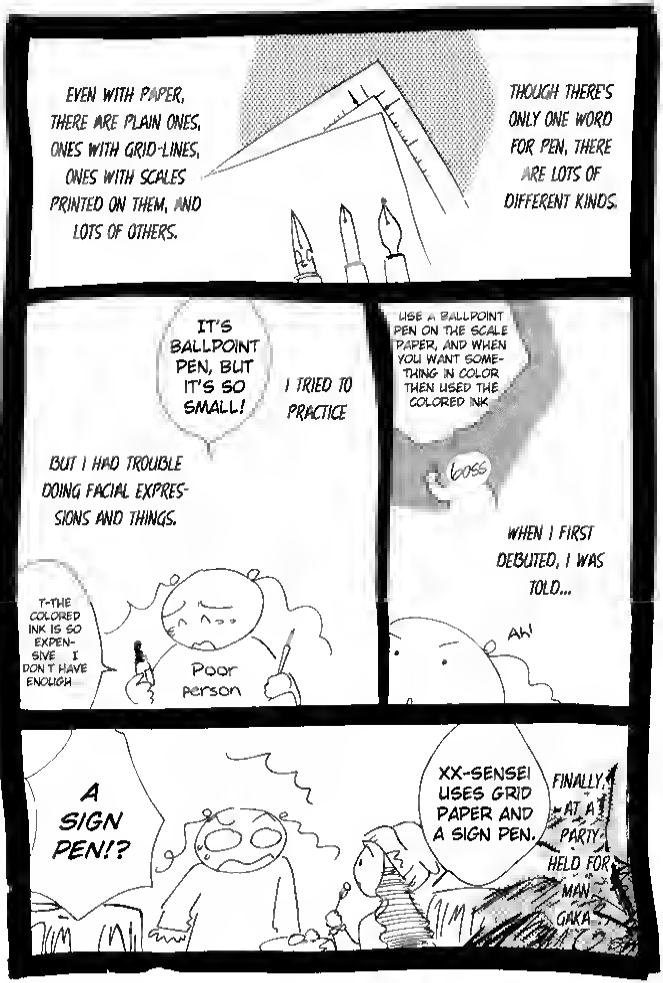
Ryoubouzuri = Name for a double-sided pencil

BUT SOMETIMES THINGS ABOUT THEM DO STRIKE ME.

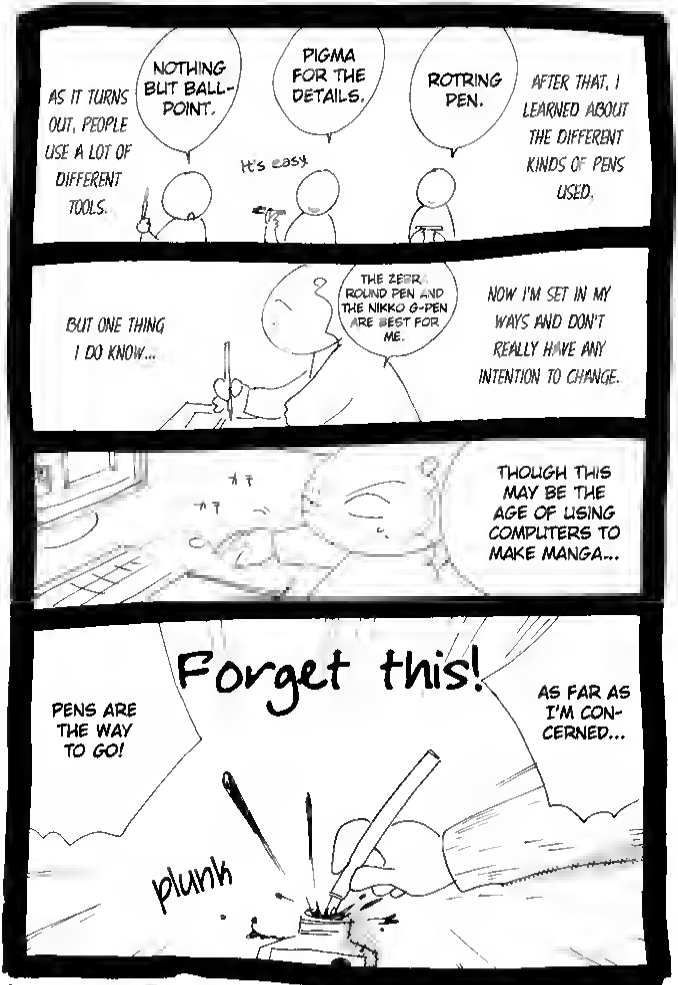
THEY ARE TOOLS I USE WITHOUT EVEN THINKING MOST OF THE TIME.

I WONDER WHAT KINDS OF THINGS MOST PEOPLE USE TO DRAW?

MANGA A BOOK ABOUT MANGA I BORROWED FROM ISONO GATSUO-KUN


EVEN WITH PAPER, THERE ARE PLAIN ONES, ONES WITH GRID-LINES, ONES WITH SCALES PRINTED ON THEM, AND LOTS OF OTHERS.
THOUGH THERE'S ONLY ONE WORD FOR PEN, THERE ARE LOTS OF DIFFERENT KINDS.
IT'S BALLPOINT PEN, BUT IT'S SO SMALL!
I TRIED TO PRACTICE
BUT I HAD TROUBLE DOING FACIAL EXPRESSIONS AND THINGS.
USE A BALLPOINT PEN ON THE SCALE PAPER, AND WHEN YOU WANT SOMETHING IN COLOR THEN USED THE COLORED INK
BOSS
T-THE COLORED INK IS SO EXPENSIVE I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH
Poor person
WHEN I FIRST DEBUTED, I WAS TOLD...
Ah!
A SIGN PEN!?
XX-SENSEI USES GRID PAPER AND A SIGN PEN.
FINALLY, AT A PARTY HELD FOR MANGAKA

AFTER IT'S PRINTED, YOU CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE.
Whether it's a ruling pen or a rotring pen or whatever.
THE FACES THEY DO ARE A LITTLE OFF...
XX-SENSEI AND I HAD THE SAME BOSS, SO I WAS SURPRISED...
T-THEY DIDN'T GET IN TROUBLE...?
BUT ...
SO LONG AS IT LOOKS RIGHT WHEN IT'S PRINTED...
So that's it...
SO.- I CAN USE WHATEVER I WANT...



まんがのお道具ばこ。——END

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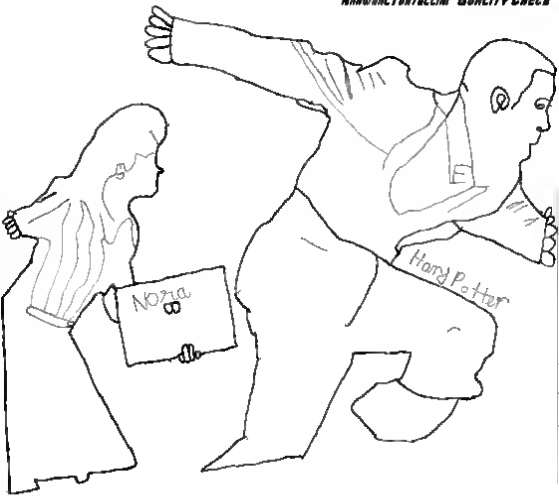

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